Pheasant Culture

FROM EGG TO EGG

BY T. SHANNON MCGILLIVRAY,

M.D.C.M. (QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY),

M.C.P. & S. ONTARIO, AND LICENTIATE OF STATE

UNIVERSITY, ALBANY, N.Y.

TORONTO:

1899

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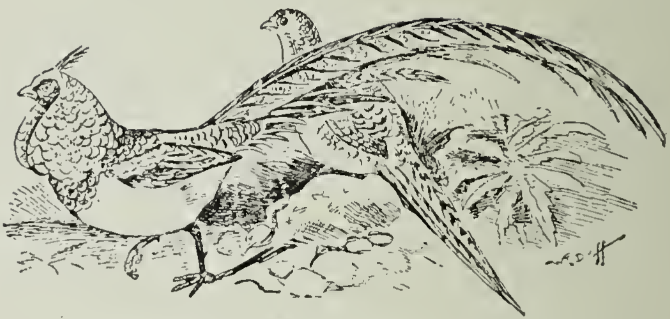

CANADIAN PHEASANTRY.

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Pheasants

8 VARIETIES

Surplus stock for sale during fall and winter.

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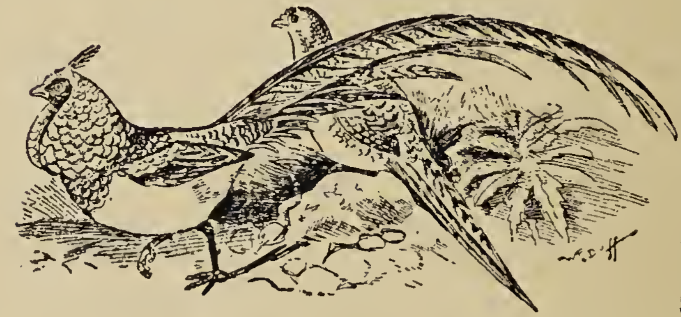


It is surprising why the most beautiful, interesting and profitable of all the feathered tribes should be so little known until recently to the fanciers of America. But when we consider that the home of the Pheasant is China, whose animals and birds were almost unknown until the famous Chinese wall which isolated that country from the rest of the world was battered down, it is apparent why the introduction to this country of pheasants has been so long delayed. Since that event commerce has slowly wended its way into the most remote parts of China, and been the means of giving to Western countries the richest, rarest, loveliest and most gorgeously plumed birds that adorn the earth. For when we take into consideration that there are about twenty distinct varieties of pheasants, all of them as rich and varied in color as the rainbow, all very beautiful, yet the different varieties widely differing from each other in their styles of grace and beauty, there can surely be found in the pheasant tribe an ideal bird to suit the taste of every fancier, no matter how versatile.

Importations of the Mongolian pheasant into Oregon which have proved such a marked success and profit to the farmers and keen delight to the sportsmen, have stimulated other States and individuals within the last few months to import many new and rare specimens.

As pheasants have undoubtedly come to stay, it behooves us to keep pace with the times and to at once begin to educate our readers in this most pleasant and profitable industry, which is at present showing such rapid progress in many parts of Canada and the United States. It is only a very few years since the Mongolian pheasant was introduced into Oregon, and in order to show the progress they have made, we here reproduce a letter written by the Game Warden of that State:

Portland, Ore., Nov. 3.

The Mongolian pheasant continues to thrive and increase in this State, where they were first introduced as a game bird on the American continent. This increase is the more remarkable because of the failure of the Legislature to provide adequate laws and funds for their protection. They have become the favorite market bird in this city, over 10,000 having been sold here last year during the one month that market sales are permitted by law—Oct. 15 to Nov. 15.

There is a great demand for these birds, for stocking purposes, from nearly every State in the Union, scores of letters being received at this office every week, making inquiries as to their habits, and how they can be obtained. The demand has now become greater than the supply, as only birds bred and raised in confinement can be legally shipped out of the State, and then only upon affidavit of the shipper that the birds are such as to entitle them to shipment.

I have no doubt that the effort made by your Commission and other enterprising citizens, to stock your State with this, the greatest game bird on earth, will prove successful. All that is necessary is wise protective laws, strictly enforced, prohibiting their killing for five or six years, to thoroughly establish them.

Your climate is colder than ours, and the environment in your State not as favorable for their rapid increase; but they are a hardy, prolific bird, and I feel confident that they will gain a foothold if given a fair chance.

HOLLISTER D. McGUIRE,
State Fish and Game Protector, Oregon.

With all due respect to Mr. McGuire concerning the comparison of this country with Oregon, we believe the East has equal if not superior advantages. Pheasants can stand the coldest of climates, but they suffer much from wet. This country is cold, but Oregon is wet, and we think the odds are in our favor.

December, 1897, number of "Birds" (a Chicago publication) has a well written article on the Ring Necked

Pheasant, from which we copy this extract referring to the State of Ohio. "A law has been enacted forbidding the killing of the pheasants until November 15, 1900. Two hundred pairs liberated last year increased to over two thousand."

When we take into consideration that a hen pheasant will hatch a covey of from eighteen to twenty-four young birds from each setting, the result is not greater than might be expected. In the same article in "Birds" a prediction is made that the Mongolian pheasant will in the Western States take the place of the prairie chicken, and in the East the quail and common pheasant, by which is meant the ruffed grouse (partridge.)

Massachusetts has also spent several thousand dollars in stocking that State with pheasants, and the report which is before us is very encouraging.

We come now to our own country, Canada. A few years ago there were a number of Mongolian pheasants liberated in the Province of British Columbia. They have bred so rapidly that they now outnumber all other game. So great has been the success, that though the law provided protection until 1900, it was so amended to allow the killing of male birds for a month this past fall, and many hundreds of them were shot.

Two years ago a pair of pheasants escaped from a gentleman who resides in the country near St. Catharines, Ont. A year ago last fall one large flock was seen near where the birds escaped, proving that they could find feed and endure our winter.

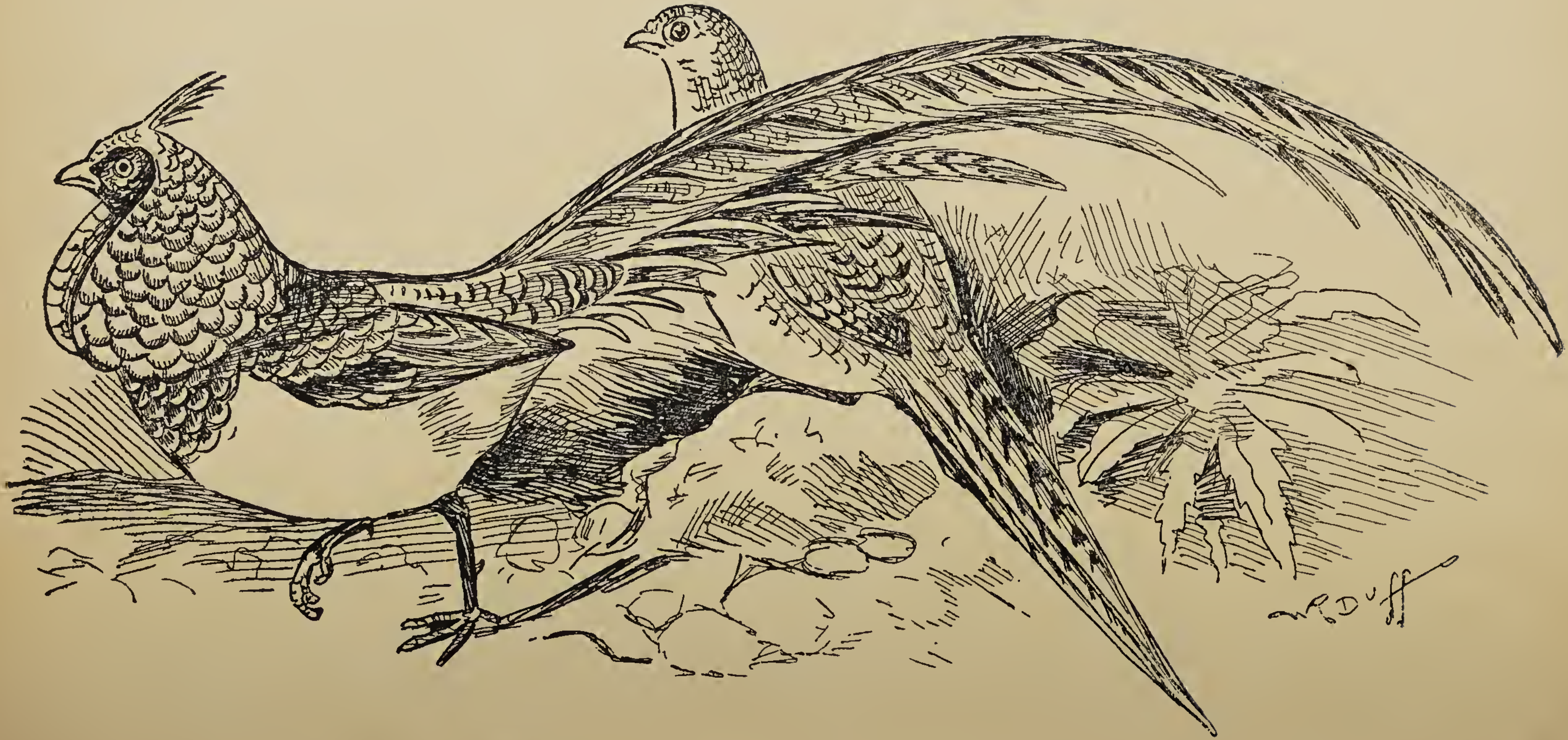
This past fall (1897) several large flocks were seen in the same place, showing that they increase as the English sparrow did after being imported into this country several years ago. Our highest hope is that the pheasants will prove as great a blessing to this country as the English sparrow has a curse.

From the last report of the Game Commissioners of Ontario we print a small extract of their recommendation to the Government in relation to pheasants :

" We have felt no small degree of pride in endeavoring to keep Ontario abreast of the times in this respect, and it is humiliating to us to see other and less pretentious States far in advance of our Province in thus encouraging the introduction of birds which would not only furnish delicacies in the way of food supply, but also tend to beautify the country, make it more interesting. and furnish an incentive for business men and others to take healthful recreation and exercise. This work must be done in order to replace the native birds, which in many cases are becoming practically extinct, and which cannot be restored by propagation or otherwise.

" We say plainly that we feel no compunction in asking that a certain amount of money be devoted to this laudable object, because now that the work of the Game Laws is about self-sustaining, we feel that the Government should devote some of the moneys to this end."

It is more than likely that the Ontario Government will act on the above recommendation and appropriate a handsome sum of money to stock Ontario with English and Mongolian pheasants. The birds to stock Ontario should be bred by Ontario fanciers, if they can supply the demand, as they will then be acclimated, and one such bird is worth two imported from a warmer country. Besides, other things being equal, we do not think a prudent Government will discourage our own honest industries by purchasing pheasants from the people of a foreign nation.



THE ABOVE CUT REPRESENTS A PAIR OF AMHERST PHEASANTS IN THE CANADIAN PHEASANTRY, HAMILTON, ONT.

HATCHING THE EGGS.

As the season is now too late (May) for purchasing the birds themselves, we assume that most fanciers will commence the pheasant industry by purchasing the eggs. We will here pass over how pheasants' eggs should be packed for shipment, as the eggs when received by the beginner will be properly packed, and will be a better lesson than we could describe.

After the eggs have been received, they should be turned daily until they are put to hatch, whether in an incubator or under Bantam hens. It is better if under Bantams, that the nest should be on the ground and on fine black earth, if possible.

INCUBATORS.

It is easy enough to hatch pheasants' eggs in any good incubator that will hatch hens' eggs, but they must be managed differently. The moisture necessary for hens' eggs would destroy pheasants' eggs. The shell of the pheasants' eggs is much closer grained and not so porous as hens' eggs. If too much moisture is furnished to the pheasants' eggs by the incubator, the chicks will be too large and so crowded in the shell that they cannot get out when the twenty-four days arrive, which is the time they usually take to hatch. Golden pheasants' eggs sometimes hatch in 22 days.

The Massachusetts Game Commission has been experimenting in hatching pheasants' eggs, and from the report of the Committee to the Government, we reprint the following extract, which speaks for itself:

"From our incubator we obtained a hatch of 95 per cent., and notwithstanding our inexperience, the entire hatch was from 10 to 15 per cent. higher than from the average hens."

There is another argument in favor of the incubator.

The vermin, scabby legs, and other diseases which the young pheasants are exposed to when hatched under hens, are avoided.

BROODERS.

Outdoor brooders are not desirable for the work, as the sudden changes of weather render it impossible to maintain an even temperature, and it is inconvenient to give the chicks proper care in stormy weather, while the high winds cause the temperature to fluctuate and sometimes set fire to the brooders.

The result of the exhaustive investigation made during the past season, has led to the construction of a brooder house, partly covered with glass, for the protection of the young birds during wet and cold weather, and equipped with brooders that are self-regulating and even in temperature. There is no guess-work about it ; the temperature once established, can be sustained with very little care.

Our investigations and experience warrant the conclusion that with proper incubators and brooders and the scientific plan of feeding the young, which we will now explain, nine-tenths of the cost and labor in raising pheasants may be saved, as well as saving the lives of 99 per cent. of the young pheasants.

FEEDING THE YOUNG.

We now come to by far the most important of all pheasant culture—feeding the young. We have before us many methods of feeding young pheasants, but we will give as a sample of one of the old methods, the bill of fair laid down by George Horne, an English gentleman of large experience in raising pheasants, who is also the author of a most excellent book on pheasants entitled "Pheasant Keeping for Amateurs."

"Rice well boiled, (not sticky) chopped onions and their tops, crushed hemp, a little pepper, baked bread-crumbs, well ground. Sprinkle the food with a little iron tonic, and let the whole be mixed till quite dry. Never let it get sour, or be left from day to day : only put enough the last thing at night for early breakfast. Do not forget the younger the birds, the more custard."

Another way young pheasants are raised in the Old Country is by hanging sheep's pluck, beef's liver, dead rabbit, or in fact flesh of any kind, up in the sun until it becomes full of maggots. The flesh is then shaken, and as the maggots fall to the ground the young birds eat them. This food combined with ants eggs, onions and lettuce, has proved fairly successful in raising young pheasants. We tried it, but the smell of decaying meat was so disagreeable, that we were forced to abandon it. Being firmly convinced that there is no food for young pheasants equal to the larvæ of flies, we next partly filled some barrels with sawdust and sunk them in the earth. The tops of the barrels were covered with wire mosquito netting and in the centre we made a quarter inch hole, putting over the hole a bulbous fly trap. We got from our butcher some sheeps' plucks, livers, etc., as required each day, from the day we commenced to set pheasants' eggs. After first being hung up until well fly blown, we put a pluck or a liver into a barrel. We arranged it in this way so that a batch of flies would hatch each day as a daily supply for the young pheasants. The flies first turn into small maggots, which in warm weather soon grow full size, and then change into the pupa state, which looks like very small black beans. They remain in this state for some days, and then from the pupa emerges a full sized fly, which sees the light at the top of the barrel and crawls up, passes through the small hole and into the common bulbous fly trap on top. We have had these fly traps from one barrel almost filled with flies four or five times a day. We just pass the fly-catcher full of flies over hot steam which kills them. The fly-catcher is made to part in the middle, and we turn out the flies, and the young birds will have a scramble. They enjoy them very much. There is but very little smell from the barrels, if kept covered with cloth over the fly screen, excepting the hole through which the flies get into the trap. In this way we raised every young pheasant except one, which met with an accident. The birds were strong, fat and rapidly feathered, and at six weeks old were just twice the size of some pheasants of the same age that we had raised for us by an Englishman and after the old English plan. 40

per cent. of the birds raised according to the old way of raising pheasants die.

There is one thing must not be lost sight of. It is the fact that flies lay their eggs and then die; and if their increase is not provided for, the whole neighborhood would become exhausted of them. To keep up a good supply of breeding flies, we let go a trap full alive about every second day.

SCIENTIFIC METHOD.

Our investigations in ornithology and especially the study of that twenty or more varieties of birds commonly called pheasants, has forced upon us the absolute necessity of further investigating the most natural food for these birds. This leads us to leave ornithology for a time and wade into entomology to study the particular kinds of flies and their culture that produce the larvæ which is so very essential to the lives of young pheasants.

The first we will describe is the most common and is called the blue-bottle fly (Lucilia Cæsar). The females hibernate in sheltered places, and emerge with the warm weather to deposit their eggs (fly-blows) on animal matter. These soon become maggots, and during a period of only about 15 days in warm weather, from the time the eggs were deposited on the flesh, it will have changed into a maggot, then pupa, from which emerges a full-grown fly. Single females of the blue-bottle kind have laid 74,143,223 eggs. Mr. Kirkland of the Board of Agriculture of Massachusetts has estimated the product of one female fly for ten generations, and states that roughly speaking this product would make a belt of flies two hundred miles wide around the entire globe, so great is the reproductive powers of this insect when not destroyed by its enemies.

The flesh fly (sarcophaga carnoria). The peculiarity of this fly is that the females after being fertilized, retain the eggs until they are hatched. They deposit

PAIR SILVER PHEASANTS.

large numbers of living larvæ on exposed meat. They are not so pentiful as the blue-bottle, but they are more desirable for pheasant food, as their maggots are larger. It is therefore advisable to favor the production of the flesh fly. This may be accomplished by allowing occasionally a few quarts of maggots to pupate, and as the pupa of the flesh fly is much larger than that of the blue-bottle, they may easily be sepatated by a sieve that will allow the pupa of the blue-bottle to pass through but will retain the other. Allow the flesh flies to hatch out and go at liberty for breeding flies. In this way a fine supply of the most desirable breeding flies can be obtained.

There is another fly which breeds in animal matter and furnishes some food for young pheasants. It is called the blue-tailed fly (Calliphora vomitoria). It is not of sufficient importance to further describe it.

There is a wide-spread belief that maggots are disgusting, stinking things. Our investigations and study of entomology prove to us that maggots separated from their usual surrounding are just as clean and odorless as young chickens, goslings, etc. Flies do not lay their eggs on tainted meat when fresh meat can be found, and maggots are clean feeders from choice and thrive best on fresh meat. This being the case barrels full of the flesh fly maggots may be produced without the slightest odor, and not hundreds but thousands of young pheasants may be raised without difficulty or any great mortality on the following plan. Feed the maggots twice a day on very thinly sliced fresh meat. Learn what they will eat up cleanly and feed them no more. The assimilating power of the maggot is so great that it can change every particle of meat to maggot without leaving any residue, consequently there can be no smell. Sheeps' plucks, livers, etc., can be purchased at the butcher's for a trifle, and turned into maggots in this way; blood is also good food for maggots.

To provide for cold and wet weather when flies are not out, place a bushel or two in a refrigerator, at from 40 to 45 degrees. Development is suspended, and they may be kept for weeks. In the case of a scarcity of full grown maggots caused by cold weather, put the undeveloped into an incubator at 90 or 95 degrees, and development is hastened.

In breeding maggots care must be taken to keep them covered with woven wire fly netting to protect them from a very large winged bug which would otherwise get in and destroy them by the hundreds.

After the first thirty days, the maggots may be safely withheld, and the wings of the young birds clipped in a way we will later describe, and the birds turned into a field of grass, and fed for a time on scalded grain, then any kind of grain, grass or vegetables, and the danger to life is over. The field should have a fence six or seven feet high—seven feet is better—and care must be taken that no brush or anything else is left so close to it as to enable the birds to jump up, and with a second jump reach the top of the fence, then over.

From preference pheasants roost where they can see the sky above them, and if no provision to prevent this were made, they would willingly and very persistently expose themselves to every rain storm. This can easily be avoided by leaving not a vestige of brush or any place to roost, except under sheds covered over on top only with convenient and tempting roosts.

The birds when they can find no roosts elsewhere will be forced to go under shelter. They may be left in this field all winter, and their feed after the first few weeks is of little importance. They may be fed a little corn, wheat, etc., until the snow comes, but if they are turned into a good fresh orchard or other field where no pheasants have previously been, they will eat but little grain of any kind until the snow hides the grass from them. Grass is as much the staff of life for the pheasant as bread is for man, and for this reason twelve of them would not eat more grain than one barnyard fowl.

At four months the males and females are better put in separate fields, and if the birds are not pinioned, their wings must be attended to every two weeks until they are four and a half months old, at which age they receive the last of their adult pinion feathers, and if well clipped then, will need no more attention until they moult the next fall.

In order to clip the wings the birds must be caught, which to a novice is no easy task, besides he is apt to pull their feathers out. We use a common dip net, which was made for catching fish in the rapids. The hoop upon which the net is fastened is about two feet across, and the handle eight feet long. We can pick up any bird we want without the slightest difficulty, and as for young ones, we dip up half a dozen at a time. No pheasantry can afford to be without a net of this kind.

COST OF RAISING BY NEW METHOD.

Let us now compare the new scientific method with the old. The result of the Massachusetts Commission experiment reports as follows :—

"Not only is the feeding of the larvæ necessary, but it is much cheaper than the eggs and custard. Six sheeps' plucks a day, costing from 3 to 5 cts. each (according to location) will produce food for 300 chicks until old enough to feed on scalded grain."

Six plucks will give from six to eight quarts of maggots. We will allow a cost of 25 cts., i.e., to feed 300 pheasants one day. How much will feed them thirty days? $7.50. That would be on an average of 2½ cts. each for the first thirty days.

By an examination of the books of our own pheasantry (Canadian Pheasantry, Hamilton, Ontario), we learn that it just takes 25 bushels of corn to feed 300 pheasants for four months, when they are out on grass. Allowing the corn to be 40 cts. per bushel—$10, it costs an average of 3⅓ cts. per each pheasant for the four months after the change from maggot food.

The pheasants are now five months old and have reached maturity, and not counting the grass and the thousands of insects they have caught for themselves, have cost for actual feed but 5 2-5 cts. per bird.

MARKET FOR PHEASANTS.

From the most reliable sources we have obtained estimates on what it costs to raise pheasants in Europe to stock their preserves. The estimates range from $1 per bird to $2.60. This may be accounted for by the unscientific methods of the game keepers, the damp climate, and the diseases peculiar to young pheasants there that are unknown here in America.

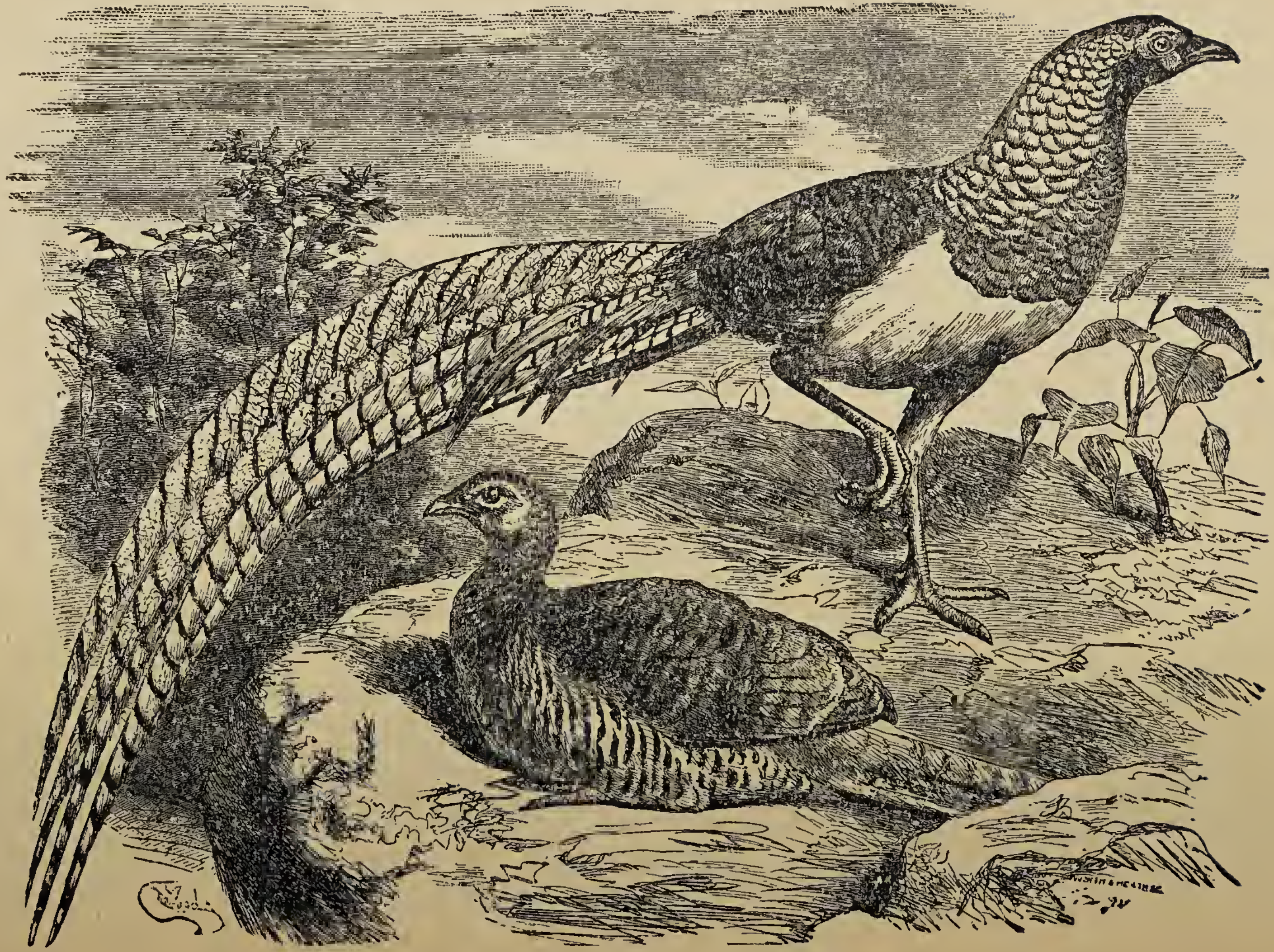
Now when we have shown that pheasants can be raised to maturing here for less than ten cents each in unlimited numbers, could not all the preserves of Europe be stocked from America, and that, too, at less than half the cost that the English noblemen now pay? With our fast line of steamers we can see nothing to prevent it, and the trade and profit therefrom will far exceed that of poultry with the Old Country.

Though pheasants can be raised more cheaply than hens, there is no likelihood of the price of the pheasant ever falling so low as that of the common hen. The flesh of the pheasant in delicacy and richness of flavor surpasses all other birds, and will always command a handsome price, as the choicest and most nutritious flesh for invalids.

Pheasant culture in America is only in its infancy, and we cannot see where there can be a reduction in prices to any great extent for years to come. There will be good orders from every state in the Union (except those already stocked) to replace the native game birds which are fast disappearing. Canada also is to be stocked. New breeders will need a stock to start with and wealthy gentlemen will have their own preserves to stock.

We are informed that ex-President Cleveland has purchased 85 acres, which he intends for a game preserve, and which he will stock with English and Mongolian pheasants.

William Hendrie, one of our Canadian millionaires, intends to stock with pheasants several hundred acres of land lying five miles west of this city (Hamilton, Ont.), and no doubt there are many more gentlemen of wealth who will catch the contagion and establish private game preserves. This with the demand by gun clubs will make pheasant raising a profitable business for years to come. Mr. Horne, author of "Pheasant Keeping for Amateurs" informs us that pheasants are exposed for sale by the thousands on the markets all over the interior of China, and we look forward to the time when it will be the same in this country.



PAIR REEVES PHEASANTS.

CLIPPING WINGS.

We hope to be pardoned for saying, that if there is a marked stupidity among the fraternity, it is the usual way we find fanciers clipping birds' wings, including poultry. This stupidity is not confined to the novice alone, but we find it in the old poultry fanciers. The old instruction solemnly spoken was, "Clip only one wing, so that the bird cannot balance. If you clip the two it can fly." This advice has gone from mouth to ear for generations given by wiseacres whose information is all founded on antiquated hearsay, and who never investigate for themselves. The average fancier clips the wing while it is closed. In this way one cannot help not only disfiguring the bird, but the heavy warm feathers which grow on the half of the wing next the body, and which Nature intends more as a coverlet to keep the bird warm than to assist in flight, are removed. Right under this warm coverlet of feathers is the lung, and when this part of the wing has been removed, there is nothing to protect the lung, and it may be noticed that there is almost a bare spot so far as body feathers are concerned. The sleet and wet falling on the unprotected lung causes pneumonia, which is followed by a lingering death or a delicate bird.

Experience and experiments prove that birds after a little practice fly higher and farther with only one wing clipped than with two. When only one is clipped they are apt to injure themselves by going with great force against the weakened side.

HOW TO CLIP.

Extend the wing fully. Then cut each pinion feather between the shaft and quill from the middle of the wing to the top. Do the same with the other wing, and all is right. The bird cannot fly ; he is not disfigured (in fact when walking round you could not tell that the wings were clipped) ; and his lungs are still protected by Nature's coverlets.

HOW TO PINION.

It is generally recommended to pinion pheasants at two months old. We have performed the little operation at all ages, and never had one die from the effect.

The operation requires no skill. It means to take a pair of scissors and clip the wing off by the first joint. The birds never seem to mind it, and in less than a week it is all healed over. This, of course, would not do for birds that were intended to be let loose in a game preserve, as they can never fly again. But for breeding stock to be fenced in fields it is much better than running the risk of watching and clipping their wings when necessary.

Pheasants should either be pinioned or have their wings clipped, even when in aviaries that are covered overhead with wire, as if this is not done they are continually injuring themselves by flying with great force against the wire.

FENCING.

Pheasants do best when not kept on the one ground too long. Therefore it is better to have a movable fence made in sections 12 feet long by 7 feet high, and fastened together by hooks and staples. These may be put in any shape, and moved to new ground when the old becomes soiled. The sections should have 12 feet of the common chicken netting wire, which is two yards wide, a foot board on the bottom, and two scantlings 2 inches square and 7 feet long for ends, and one scantling 12 feet long for top. This gives 1 foot of board and 6 feet of wire, making 7 feet high and 12 feet long. This can be duplicated as many times as desired. Four sections will make a pen 12 feet square, in which a pair of pheasants may be kept, and by adding sections, can be extended to any size.

WINTERING PHEASANTS.

So far as the care during winter is concerned, we need say but little. We have already mentioned that it was best to have their roosting places sheltered from rain. They can stand any cold, and the more they are allowed to "rough it" the better they seem to thrive. The greatest danger is killing them with kindness. We have known fanciers who complained of heavy losses during winter but they had used artificial heat, and we suppose heat and want of fresh air caused disease.

Feed a little corn or wheat with turnips, carrots and lots of clover hay that has been cut green and well saved. The hay should be run through a straw cutter and scalded before given to the pheasants. This is very cheap feed, and the birds are kept in healthy and fine condition for laying fertile eggs in abundance when spring comes.

BREEDING.

Pheasants adhere to monogamy in their natural wild state ; but when domesticated most varieties degenerate into bigamists, and the males will then mate with more than one female. The Amherst, Golden, Reeves, Versicolor, Mongolian and English will all mate with four or five hens, while the Silver and Swinhoe are fairly true to one mate.

FEMALE HATERS.

Among pheasants as well as among men we occasionally find a "female hater." When we find a cock pheasant of this disposition he is very troublesome in breeding season just when it is necessary that he should be with the hen. They are found in all varieties, but probably more frequently in the Amherst and Soemmerring. They pick the hen on the head and somtimes kill her. When one is so unfortunate as to own one of these birds, and has no other bird of the same variety from which he can breed, the following is the remedy :—When winter is passed and breeding season has arrived, the weather is then so mild that the chances of clipping every feather right to the flesh from the top of both the cock's wings may be taken. He should be kept in for a few days lest he may take cold on the lungs. Then put him in an aviary with a hen, with a wire fence across dividing it in two halves, and whenever her lord and master takes one of his "tantrums" the hen will just fly the fence. He cannot follow, and she can wait and watch him through the wire until he comes to his senses and is willing to behave before she will agree to "play in his back yard," again.

Another way is to have round holes in the board large enough for the hen to run her head, neck and breast through when the cock gets angry and wants to pick her on the head.

LAYING HENS.

Hen pheasants begin to lay about the last week of March, and if not allowed to set, may lay till the middle of July and sometimes to the middle of August. Before laying time arrives, they should be all arranged in their aviaries and the cocks put with the hens. The hens should not be disturbed during laying season by visitors, who too frequently will bring with them dogs. If they are timid and shy, the manager of them should always wear the same clothes when the eggs are being collected. The aviaries should be kept clean, and well supplied with lots of clean water and an abundant supply of green food (lettuce is the best) if in small quarters where they cannot get grass. A heap of fine sand should be in one corner of every aviary for the birds to dust in. A broad board leaned against the side of the aviary with a nest behind it with an artificial egg in the nest should be provided for the hen to lay in. This should not be too easy for the male to get at, nor should there be too much light, lest they may learn to eat their eggs, a habit they are never guilty of if they have a large run. The artificial eggs sold in the stores are of no use. The birds know them, and if they have become egg eaters they can soon select the genuine from the bogus egg.

To make proper artificial nest eggs for pheasants, take bantam or guinea hens eggs, make a small hole in both ends and blow the egg out leaving the shell. Put a piece of mucilage paper over one hole and fill the shell with newly mixed plaster of paris. Allow it to dry, then break the shell off, and with a real pheasant's egg as a sample, it may be colored so that the pheasant cannot tell it from a genuine egg. They are quickly and easily made, and with a free use of them before the pheasants begin to lay, there is little fear of them learning to eat eggs. One or two should be kept around the aviary as well as in the nests. There are many other ways suggested, such as burning and cutting the points of the birds' bills, patent nests, filling the eggs with coal oil, mustard and pepper and giving them to the birds to eat, etc., which we will pass over as being useless, and come to the only other plan we have found of any use in saving eggs from egg eating pheasants. It is to feed the pheasants all they can eat of common hens' eggs. This is not so very expensive as hens' eggs are cheap at that season of the year.

If the pheasants are properly managed there will be no egg eaters, and all the drawbacks to pheasant culture may be avoided, and experience teaches with regard to pheasants that the "ounce of prevention is better than the pound of cure."

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